

Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes [Draft]

April 26, 2011

Prepared by: Ken Ferebee

ATTENDEES

Members

Paul Allen (WSSC), ex officio
Mark Buscaino
Andrew Der
Ken Ferebee
Dan Landry
Caren Madsen
Norman Mease
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio
Katherine Nelson, (M-NCPPC), ex officio
David Plummer (MSCD), ex officio
Jeff Schwartz
Kevin Smith
Bryan Straathof

Absent members

Ginny Barnes
Kim Knox
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio
Sarah Navid, (DPS) ex officio
Michael Norton
David Post
Linda Silversmith
Dan Snyder
Clark Wagner

Others attending

Susan Buffone, Council staff

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:07

Agenda for the meeting and minutes from February 15 and March 15, 2011 were passed out for review

Several committee members gave brief updates on Earth Day activities that they were involved with:

- Large tree planting on the former Oaks landfill with students
- Installation of tree protection around natural regeneration at the Reddy Branch restoration site
- 52 acre reforestation area near Magruder High School. Large trees being planted with a 5 year invasive management plan in place. Area will be transferred to Mont. Co. Parks after 5 years.

Another announcement was made about an urban tree canopy program on September 28, 2011 being presented jointly by Casey Trees and Georgetown University.

February 15, 2011 meeting minutes had been previously revised per committee member comments.

The minutes for March 15 were revised slightly after a quick review.

A motion was made to approve the February minutes. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved with one abstention.

A motion was made to approve the March minutes per the revisions that were made. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved as amended with one abstention.

Committee members reviewed a letter to the County Executive concerning two administrative issues of concern to the committee: the annual briefing to the County Executive this past February did not allow updates and exchanges on the work of the various committees and committee management/ appointment of a committee chairperson.

A discussion of the letter followed and several changes in the language were suggested.

A motion was made to approve the draft letter as amended. The motion was seconded and approved with two abstentions.

In lieu of a speaker from the Boards, Committees and Commissions staff, the committee received a Draft Standard Operating Procedures for Meetings of the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Advisory Committee.

In the handout it was written that county boards, committees, and commissions are not permitted to vote by email.

This brought up the issue of the letter that the committee recently sent to the County Executive concerning the new tree clearance regulations being drafted by the Public Service Commission. The committee voted on this letter by email which by rule was not allowed and now the recommendations made in the letter by the committee must be ratified by vote during a committee meeting.

The ratification of the PSC letter was tabled until the May meeting at which time it will be revisited with a larger attendance of committee members expected.

The committee has received a request from the Office of Community Partnerships to assist with finding opportunities for volunteers to do community service projects. A few ideas and potential projects were suggested:

- Kim Knox is trying to get a grant that will be matched by MNCPPC to possibly plant 10 acres at the Rachel Carson site
- Possibly more planting at the Oaks landfill in the fall
- Public school properties (some of the least forested areas in county). Possibly engage schools to find sites that committee can lend expertise to make recommendations about planting and restoration projects.

Caren Madsen, in her capacity as a representative of Conservation Montgomery, shared some recent correspondence concerning amendments to the Forest Conservation Law. She is working with a group including Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association, Audubon Naturalist Society, Mont. Co. DPS and DEP to develop amendments to the FCL to present to the County Executive. This is a work in progress and will continue. The hope is to come to an agreement on amendments among the different stakeholder groups and then present something to the County Executive by July 1 as he requested.

Dan Landry informed the committee members that PEPCO has started a dialogue with Mont. Co. and the State Highway Administration about possibly starting a tree replacement program.

No other business was brought forward

Meeting adjourned at 8:45